

Survey # F-4-125

Approximate date September 14, 1862

Frostown Road

Street Address: From Dahlgren Road to Michael Road

Town, State: Middletown vicinity, MD

private , public X

This property is included in the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. The Frostown Road leads from the intersection with Dahlgren Road at the base of the eastern face of South Mountain to the crest of the mountain at Michael Road. Originally a farm lane which ran through the Main Farm (Bond Map of Frederick County, 1858), the road was mistakenly named Frostown Road when Frederick County took over responsibility for the maintenance of the road. Frostown Road was the most northern route the Union forces used in an attempt to flank General D.H. Hill's Confederate defense of Turner's Gap in the Battle of South Mountain. At the intersection with Dahlgren Road, Frostown Road is a 1 1/2 lane paved road. It runs due north from the intersection for approximately 300 feet, then abruptly turns west and continues up the mountain. A short distance beyond the sharp turn, Frostown Road continues as a one lane gravel road until it intersects with Michael Road. Frostown Road is approximately 1 1/2 miles in length. The road is significant for its direct and primary role in the Battle of South Mountain. The road was strategic to both the Confederate defense of Turners Gap and to the Union attempt to occupy the gap. Beyond the gap to the west the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia was divided and vulnerable to Union attack. It was therefore crucial for the Confederates to prevent the Union army from crossing the mountain until the Confederate army could reunite. The battle for the Turners Gap pass at Frostown Road was waged by the lone Alabama Brigade of Brigadier General Robert Rodes against the formidable Union Third Division, I Corps, under the command of Brigadier General George G. Meade.

Photo Reference: Photo #

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD and Edith B. Wallace
Woodward-Clyde
200 Orchard Ridge Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: February, 1998

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-125

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Frostown Road

2. Location

street & number From Frostown to Michael Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Middletown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Frederick County Roads Department

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Frederick, state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse Liber

street & number 100 West Patrick Street Folio

city, town Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register Nomination Form, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17, A,B,C

date February, 1986 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-125

Condition

☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☒ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Frostown Road leads from the intersection with Dahlgren Road at the base of the eastern face of South Mountain to the crest of the mountain at Michael Road. Originally a farm lane which ran through the Main Farm (Bond Map of Frederick County, 1858), the road was mistakenly named Frostown Road when Frederick County took over responsibility for the maintenance of the road. Frostown Road was the most northern route the Union forces used in an attempt to flank General D.H. Hill's Confederate defense of Turner's Gap in the Battle of South Mountain.

At the intersection with Dahlgren Road, Frostown Road is a 1 1/2 lane paved road. It runs due north from the intersection for approximately 300 feet, then abruptly turns west and continues up the mountain. A short distance beyond the sharp turn, Frostown Road continues as a one lane gravel road until it intersects with Michael Road. Frostown Road is approximately 1 1/2 miles in length.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-125

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)	

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exceptions: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Frostown Road is significant for its role in the Civil War Battle of South Mountain. The road was strategic to both the Confederate defense of Turners Gap and to the Union attempt to occupy the gap. Beyond the gap to the west the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia was divided and vulnerable to Union attack. It was therefore crucial for the Confederates to prevent the Union army from crossing the mountain until the Confederate army could reunite.

Frostown Road approaches the crest of South Mountain approximately one mile to the north of Turner's Gap. The potential for this road to be used by the Federals to flank the Confederate defense on the extreme left was recognized by the commanders of both armies. The battle for the Turners Gap pass at Frostown Road was waged by the lone Alabama Brigade of Brigadier General Robert Rodes against the formidable Union Third Division, I Corps, under the command of Brigadier General George G. Meade.

On the afternoon of September 14, 1862, General Joseph Hooker's I Corps of the Army of the Potomac, had finally arrived in the fields below South Mountain. Commanding General George B. McClellan's plan to flank the Confederate defenders of the mountain passes on the left and the right directed the I Corps to the right down the Old Hagerstown Road (now Mt. Tabor Rd) to the hamlet of Frostown. Directly ahead lay a steeply sided ravine. Running along the ridge on the right side of the ravine was the Frostown Rd., on the ridge to the left was the Old Hagerstown Rd., both roads intersecting at Frostown. General Meade's Division was deployed to the right, Hatch's Division to the left.¹ General Meade stated, "Over this second ridge there was a road [Frostown Rd.], along which I advanced Seymour's brigade of the division..."² Brigadier General Truman Seymour reported, "On a prominent hill on his extreme left, and on our right of the road...the rebels had posted a regiment, the Sixth Alabama."³

Confederate General D.H. Hill's response to the build-up of forces at the base of the mountain was critical. When Brigadier General Rodes' Alabama

¹Stephen W. Sears, *Landscape Turned Red*, New York: Ticknor and Fields, 1983, p. 136.

²Jay Luvaas, and Harold W. Nelson, eds., *The US Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, The Maryland Campaign of 1862*, Washington: Harper Collins, 1987, p.67, from O.R., Vol XIX, Part I, pp.267-68.

³War College Guide, p.69, from O.R., Vol XIX, Part I, p.272.

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DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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brigades finally arrived as reinforcements, they were immediately sent to the extreme left to "protect the flank."⁴ General Rodes wrote, "The whole brigade was moved to that hill [the Frostown Road ridge], crossing, in doing so, a deep gorge which separated the hills...I had, immediately after my arrival on the extreme left, discovered that the hill there was accessible to artillery, and that a good road [Frostown Road], passing by the left of said hill from the enemy's line, continued immediately in my rear and entered the main road about half a mile west of the gap."⁵ Seymour's brigade came upon Rodes' brigade from the left, the whole of Meade's Division forcing Rodes' men farther into and up the rear of the ravine. While Seymour had gained the Frostown Road, however, Rodes and the remaining Confederate forces continued to hold the high ground into the night.⁶

⁴James V. Murfin, *The Glean of Bayonets*, New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1965, p. 180.

⁵War College Guide, p.61, from O.R., Vol XIX, Part I, pp.1034-36.

⁶Murfin, p.181.

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Magi No.

DOE

☐ yes

☐ no

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Military

Resource Type:

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Transportation, Road

Known Design Source: None

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.

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- Luvaas, Jay and Harold W. Nelson eds., The U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, The Maryland Campaign of 1862, Harper Collins Publishers, Washington, 1987.
- Murfin, James V., The Gleam of Bayonets, The Battle of Antietam and Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign, September 1862, Thomas Yoseloff, New York, 1965.
- Roth, Dave, "The General's Tour of South Mountain", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.
- Schildt, John W., The Ninth Corps, At Antietam, Chewsville, Maryland, 1988.
- Sears, Stephen W., "Fire On The Mountain, The Battle of South Mountain September 14, 1862", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.
- Sears, Stephen W., Landscape Turned Red, The Battle of Antietam, Ticknor and Fields, New York, 1983.
- Swinton, William, Army of the Potomac, Smithmark Publisher, New York, 1995.
- U.S. War Department, The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol XIX, Parts I and II, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1880-1901.

Manuscripts

- Frye, Dennis, National Register Nomination Form, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.

Maps

- Cond Map, 1858. Maryland Room, Frederick Co. Public Library
- Engineers Maps, 1862, National Register Nomination, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.
- Macombe Map, 1861.
- The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War, Plate 27, Gramercy Books, New York, 1983.


10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 8

Quadrangle name Middletown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References DO NOT COMPLETE UTM REFERENCES


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Verbal boundary description and justification

The surveyed resource includes the Frostown Road for its length from Dahlgren Road to Michael Road, a distance of approximately 1 1/2 miles. The road is important as an approach and defensive route at the extreme north edge of the Battle of South Mountain.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD, and Edith B. Wallace

organization Woodward-Clyde date 2/98

street & number 200 Orchard Ridge Drive telephone 301-739-2070

city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD	20878
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
People's Resource Center
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7000

-463 11 SW
UNKSTOWN)

275000m.E

276

277

35' 2

4375000m.N

F-4-125
Frostown Road
Middletown Quad 4374

HAGLESTOWN 14 MI.
FLUNKSTOWN 9 7 MI.

4373

4372

4371

27'30"

4370



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Frostown Rd.

Frederick Co, Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

4 November 1991

Maryland SHPO

view west

1/3



2442300 9-50

F-4-125

Stonewall, Frostown Rd.

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

4 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view northwest from Frostown Rd.

Stonewall at farm lane entrance, near 1100

2/3



F-4-1215

Frostburg Rd., view shed

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

13 November 1971

Maryland SHPO

view shed looking east

3/3